

Hattori et al. (hereinafter "Hattori"); claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,287 to Palmer et al. (hereinafter "Palmer"); claims 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,126,854 to Sheridan (hereinafter "Sheridon"); and claims 38-41, 43-45, 77 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,932 to Albert (hereinafter "Albert"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

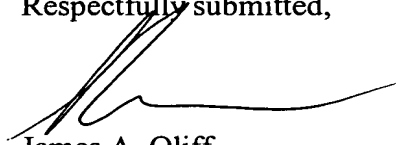
As asserted by Applicant's representative, and agreed to by Examiners Alphonse and Chow at the May 11, 2004 personal interview, Hattori, alone or in combination with Palmer, Sheridan or Albert, fails to disclose or suggest all the features of at least independent claims 1, 23, 75 and 84-87, and dependent claim 24. At the May 11, 2004 personal interview, Examiners Alphonse and Chow agreed to withdraw the April 16, 2004 Office Action and issue another Patent Office communication by May 31, 2004. (See, for example, the attached Interview Summary.)

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GPS/hs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
May 11, 2004 Interview Summary

Date: August 16, 2004

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